

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 2561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: MILAN PRI: BUCALOSSI WINS FIRST ROUND IN COMEBACK
ATTEMPT

REF (A) MILAN 2412 (B) MILAN 2330

1. PIERFRANCO FALETTI, PRI GROUP LEADER IN MILAN CITY COUNCIL
AND CLOSE SUPPORTER OF UGO LAMALFA CRITIC PRBV. PIETRO BUCALOSSI,
TOLD US NOVEMBER 23 THAT BUCALOSSI GROUP PREVIOUS EVENING HAD
WON IMPORTANT FIRST VITORY IN ITS ATTEMPT TO REGAIN MAJORITY
WITHIN MILAN PARTY (REFTELS).

2. BUCALOSSI PROVOKED DISSOLUTION OF LOMBARDY REGIONAL
EXECUTIVE (GIUNTA) IN OCTOBER BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT LARGER ROLE
FOR PCI. BUCALOSSI'S GROUP WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED,
HOWEVER, BOTH IN PRI LOMBARDY REGIONAL COUNCIL AND IN VOTE BY
MILAN CITY MEMBERSHIP FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO PRI MILAN CITY
COMMITTEE. GIUNTA HAS SINCE BEEN RECONSTITUTED MUCH AS BEFORE
AND COMMUNISTS HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR ROLE. REASON FOR
BUCALOSSI'S DEFEAT WAS DECISION OF PRI MODERATE FACTION,
LED BY SENATOR GIOVANNI SPADOLINI AND DEPUTY ANTONIO DEL
PENNINO, TO FOLLOW LEAD OF NATIONAL PARTY SECRETARY LAMALFA
AND SIDE WITH SMALL LEFTIST ELEMENT.

3. SINCE THEIR DEFEAT, BUCALOSSI, FALETTI, AND COMPANY HAVE
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BEEN ITCHING TO TURN TABLES. THEY QUICKLY MADE PLAN TO UPSET

RIVALS, FIRST IN ONE OF MILAN CITY WARDS (SEZIONI), AND THEN, STRENGTHENED BY THAT VICTORY, IN CITY ITSELF. REPERCUSSIONS OF CITY VICTORY, THEY FIGURED, WOULD BE FELT EVEN BY LAMALFA IN ROME.

4. NOVEMBER 22 WARD ELECTION, AS RECOUNTED TO US BY FALETTI, WAS SUCCESSFUL FIRST STEP. BUCALOSSI GROUP, HE SAID, IN ELECTION OF SEZIONE COMMITTEE, GOT 300 OF 500 VOTES. SINCE 70 PERCENT OF MILAN PRI MEMBERS LIVE IN THIS SEZIONE, BUCALOSSI NOW PRESUMABLY HAS GOOD CHANCE TO TAKE CONTROL OF CITY PARTY AS WELL.

5. BUCALOSSI VICTORY WAS REPORTEDLY TURBULENT AFFAIR. FALETTI ACCUSED DEL PENNINO AND OTHER LOSERS OF SHAMELESS AND ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ATTEMPTS TO OBSTRUCT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE FINALLY WALKING OUT. RUCKUS, HE IMPLIED, DID PARTY LITTLE GOOD.

6. FALETTI SAID HE AND BUCALOSSI NOT YET DECIDED ON NEXT MOVE. HE CITED AGAIN DIFFICULTY OF MAKING HEADWAY WITH PRESENT SLIM BACKING (REF A). HIS GROUP WOULD PRESS FORWARD, HOWEVER, IN HOPES OF PREVENTING LAMALFA FROM USING POSITION AS PARTY SECRETARY TO EXPOUND VISION OF FUTURE HELPFUL TO COMMUNISTS. FINA

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